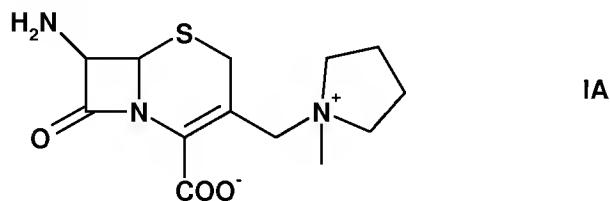


IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract:

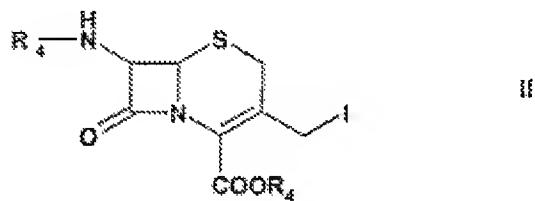
A process for the production of intermediates having a formula IA



IA

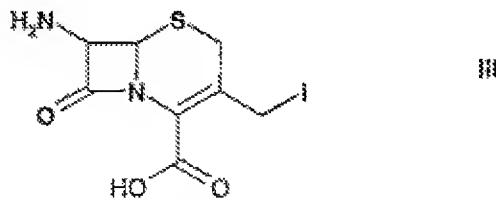
that can be used for the synthesis of cephalosporins, such as cefepime of formula V.

The intermediates of formula IA are produced by desilylation of a compound of formula II



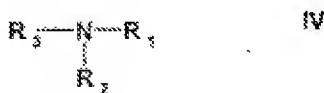
II

wherein R_4 is a silyl-protecting group, with a protic solvent to obtain a compound of formula III,



III

and reacting the compound of formula III with an organic base of formula IV



wherein R_2 and R_3 together represent a C4-alkylene group, and with the adjacent nitrogen atom form a saturated 5-membered heterocycle, and R_1 represents a methyl group, to obtain the compound of formula 1A.